(*c*) The assessment of 8 annas per site now levied in some places may be either altogether abolished or its levy limited to sites, the extent of which exceeds one hundred square yards.

(*d*) Hittals and manure pits may be exempted from the payment of assessment and the excavation of deep pits for the deposit of manure prohibited.

(*e*) Vacant sites used as Hullukoppals (places for storage of straw) should not be assessed even though they may not form part of the premises occupied by the raiyats concerned.

(*f*) Vacant sites owned by agriculturists may be exempted from the payment of assessment.

Reply of Government.—(*a*) to (*f*). There is much diversity of practice and in some places real cause for grievance. All the District Officers have been consulted. Draft Rules bearing on the subject are under consideration.

Subject No. 94
(a) Patels and Shanbhogs.
(b) Patels and Shanbhogs to be required to qualify themselves for their posts.

Summary of discussion.—(*a*) Patels should not be illiterate.

(*b*) Illiterate patels and shanbhogs may be required to qualify themselves within a certain time, and in case of failure to do so, to vacate their posts.

(*c*) Patels should possess lands assessed at a fair proportion of the Potgi. Educational qualification may be insisted upon in the case of future nominations.

Reply of Government.—(*a*), (*b*) & (*c*) The office being hereditary, illiterate patels cannot be removed summarily. Every encouragement is given for the spread of education in villages and patels and shanbhogs are being gradually educated. New men are not ordinarily appointed unless they can read and write. Possession of land is insisted upon but it is difficult to lay down a limit.

Subject No. 95
Shekdars.

Summary of discussion.—The duties of shekdars should be clearly defined and they should be required to pass an examination in surveying, plotting and classifying, and their minimum pay should be raised to Rs. 20. They may also be given a horse allowance.

Reply of Government.—A committee is now investigating these and other questions relating to the shekdari service. Early improvement may be expected.

Subject No. 96
Remuneration of Patels and Shanbhogs.

Summary of discussion.—(*a*) Early orders *in re* the revision of Potgi allowances are solicited. The present remuneration was fixed several years ago, and there has since been a large increase of revenue entailing additional work on these officials.

Reply of Government.—The revision of remuneration settled more than ten years ago is in progress.